



**Billing Code 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R3–ES–2016–N123; FXES11130300000–167–FF03E00000]**

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications for a permit to conduct activities intended to enhance the survival of endangered or threatened species. Federal law prohibits certain activities with endangered species unless a permit is obtained.

**DATES:** We must receive any written comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments by U.S. mail to the Regional Director, Attn: Carlita Payne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990, Bloomington, MN 55437–1458; or by electronic mail to [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carlita Payne, (612) 713–5343.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Background**

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), prohibits certain activities with endangered and threatened species unless the activities are specifically authorized by a Federal permit. The ESA and our implementing regulations in part 17 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provide for the issuance of such permits and require that we invite public comment before issuing permits for activities involving endangered species.

A permit granted by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with U.S. endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes, enhancement of propagation or survival, or interstate commerce (the latter only in the event that it facilitates scientific purposes or enhancement of propagation or survival). Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA for these permits are found at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

### **Applications Available for Review and Comment**

We invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to comment on the following applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with the applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

### **Permit Applications**

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of survival of the species in the wild.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Type of Take</b>	<b>Permit Action</b>
TE217351	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)–Forest Service, Nelsonville, OH	Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ), northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ), gray bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> )	OH, KY, IL	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, radio-tag, release	Amend, renew
TE03495B	Kristina Hammond, Cheyenne, WY	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, radio-tag, release	Amend, renew
TE64238B	Jocelyn Karsk, Ball State University, Muncie, IN	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence, migration, and telemetry surveys	Capture, handle, radio-tag, release	Amend
TE10887A	U.S. Geological Survey, Chesterton, IN	Karner blue butterfly ( <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> )	WI	Establish captive colony for climate change research	Capture, collect, obtain eggs, maintain/rear in captivity	Amend, renew
TE77313A	Egret Environmental Consulting, LLC	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, gray bat, Hine’s emerald dragonfly	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population	capture, handle, radio-tag, release	Amend

		( <i>Somatochlora hineana</i> )		monitoring, evaluate impacts		
TE31355B	Brooke Hines, Paris, KY	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, gray bat, Virginia big-eared bat ( <i>Plecotus townsendii virginianus</i> ), Ozark big-eared bat ( <i>Plecotus townsendii ingens</i> )	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle, radio-tag, release	Amend, renew
TE049738	Third Rock Consultants, LLC, Lexington, KY	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, gray bat, Virginia big-eared bat, Ozark big-eared bat, American burying beetle ( <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i> ), 18 fish species, and 50 mussel species	AL, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MO, MS, NC, OH, SC, TN	Conduct presence/absence surveys, document habitat use, conduct population monitoring, evaluate impacts	Capture, handle (bats); harass (mussels and fish); capture, handle, release (beetle)	Amend, renew
TE98294A	Normandale Associates Inc., Stowe, PA	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat	IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI	Conduct presence/absence surveys	Capture, handle, radio-tag, release	Amend, renew
TE01322C	USDA–Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Rhinelander, WI	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat	Rangewide	Conduct presence/absence surveys, conduct population monitoring,	Capture, handle, radio-tag, band, collect samples, release	New

				conduct white-nose syndrome research		
TE01320C	Kristi Confortin, Ball State University, Muncie, IN	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat	IL, IN	Conduct presence/absence surveys, conduct population monitoring, conduct white-nose syndrome research	Capture, handle, radio-tag, band, collect samples, release, salvage	New
TE01311C	Shawn McKinley, Grafton, WV	Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, gray bat, Virginia big-eared bat	OH	Conduct presence/absence surveys	Capture, band, release	New

## **National Environmental Policy Act**

The proposed activities in the requested permits qualify as categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act, as provided by Department of the Interior implementing regulations in part 46 of title 43 of the CFR (43 CFR 46.205, 46.210, and 46.215).

## **Public Availability of Comments**

We seek public review and comments on these permit applications. Please refer to the permit number when you submit comments. Comments and materials we receive in response to this notice are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed above in **ADDRESSES**.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

## **Authority**

We provide this notice under section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

**Dated: July 29, 2016**

**Sean Marsan,  
Acting Assistant Regional Director,  
Ecological Services,  
Midwest Region.**

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